

Joseph and Tyresha Cragun Kirkham 1850-1950 Centennial Biography

Joseph Kirkham, sone of George William and Mary Astington Kirkham was born December 28, 1856, in London, Surrey, England, and died at Lehi, Utah June 9, 1943.

Tyresha Cragun, daughter of James and Eleanor Lane Cragun was born March 27, 1857, in Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, and died March 3, 1894 at Lehi, Utah.

Following their adherence to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Joseph with his parents and three brothers left his native land, April 11, 1859, crossing the ocean in the sailing vessel, "William Tabscot." They arrived in Salt Lake City with the R. F. Neslen Company on September 18, 1859, making their home in Sugarhouse on the site where Sugarhouse Park now is. They moved to Lehi in the Spring of 1860.

He, with his three brothers, James, George and Hyrum were well known and in great demand as musicians and entertainers throughout the State. Joseph manufactured his own instruments, making many guitars and violins, on which he played very proficiently.

Being skilled as a stone mason, he was called to work on the St. George Temple. While there he met and married Tyresha Cragun March 5, 1875, in the St. George Temple. Eleven children were born to them: Joseph Hyrum, Tyresha (Mrs. Jesse G. Webb), Shelia Virginia (Mrs. Leo Clayton), Nathan and the following who died in infancy: James William, Amelia, Geneva, Priscilla, Mary Ellen, Robert Elisha, and Melvin Millard.

Joseph was a loyal, faithful member of the church; fulfilled a mission to his native Britain; and worked constantly to further the cause of church, city, and state, and to better the welfare of his neighbors.

November 15, 1905, he married Mary Jane Stoddart in the Salt Lake Temple. She died March 16, 1941.